CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention, has been drawn to the FAO's World Food Report (1986) which projects a dismal picture for developing countries in the matter of real export earnings from agricultural commodities;

(b) what is the "projected food! surplus of India during 1987-88; and

(c) the manner, in which it is proposed to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. 'K. L". BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir, the Report has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) As the demand for foodgrains in the country depends on various factors, such as population growth, extent of urbanisation,. Levels of income, prices of substitutable food-grains, level of production etc., precise estimates of requirement of foodgrains in the country are hot available.

(c) There is considerable scope for increasing internal consumption of foodgrains in the country and as such the available stocks are proposed to be utilized mainly, for meeting this requirement.

Nedal agencies for implementation of supply of goods and services

2876. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased. 'to state:

(a) whether the Consumer Protection Act has commenced showing results as envisaged in the Act;

(b) whether his-Ministry is likely to serve as a nodal administrative agency for implementation of all safeguards for supply of geods and services at the earliest;

(c) whether one nodal authority is likely to be named in every State Capital and in each District for deal ing, with every Consumers' com plaint and for its statutory redres-sal within one month; and

(d) whether voluntary Consumer federations are likely to be inducted into this job?

THE MINISTER ' OF PARLIA-MENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL. SUPPLIES (SHRI, H. K. L. BHAGAT: (a) The Consumer Protection Act was passed in the last Winter Session of the Parliament. ' Steps are being taken to ensure that the institutions envisaged/in the Act become functional as early as possible.

(b) In view of the diverse nature of goods and services, it would not be possible for the Department of Civil Supplies to implement alt the safeguards in this regard. It is, however, functioning as a nodal De partment for coordination of work relating to-consumer protection.

(c) In the Consumer Protection Act a redressal machinery at the National, State and District level has been provided for speedy and inexpensive redressal of consumer complaints.

(d) Voluntary consumer organisa tions, alongwith other concerned sections of the society would be represented, on the Consumer Pro tection' Councils at the National and State levels, proposed to be set UP I under the Consumer Protection Act.